



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8067
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: IR, AF, ASEC, PINS
SUBJ: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

REF: TEHRAN 04019

1. AT DINNER APRIL 29, GEORGE BUSH GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT HIS AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH EARLIER THAT DAY. HE SAID THE SHAH IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND CONSIDERED THE COUP ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE SOVIET GRAND DESIGN. HE HAD WARNED PRESIDENTS NIXON, FORD AND CARTER ABOUT AFGHANISTAN; NOW HE SEES THE COUP AS FURTHER PROOF OF A COMMUNIST DRIVE TO ENCIRCLE IRAN. HE HAS BECOME UNSURE OF PAKISTAN NOW.

2. AT THE SAME TIME THE SHAH TOLD BUSH OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE PERSIAN GULF STATES, WHICH HE SAID WERE "RUN BY A BUNCH OF BEDOUINS" WHO HAVE NO PLAN. THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THE FORCES DETERMINED TO OVERTHROW THEM. HE MENTIONED IRAQ AND SYRIA AS REAL MENACES.

3. AT THE SAME DINNER SAVAK CHIEF GENERAL NASSIRI SAID
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RESISTANCE TO THE COUP GROUP CONTINUED, PARTICULARLY IN HERAT; IN KANDAHAR, WHERE AIR FORCE ELEMENTS INCLUDING SEVERAL MIG-EQUIPPED UNITS WERE STILL HOLDING OUT; AND IN BAGRAM AIR FORCE BASE, ABOUT TWENTY MILES NORTH OF KABUL. HE SAID A FORCE OF PARATROOPS FROM KANDAHAR HAD, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, TAKEN POSITIONS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE BUT ALL WERE KILLED. MOST OF THE AIR ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN KABUL WERE BY SU-7 AIRCRAFT.

4. NASSIRI ALSO TOLD ME THAT AS OF THAT TIME HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THE DEATHS OF FORMER PRESIDENT DAUD AND HIS BROTHER, NAIM, AND THAT HE HAD HEARD DAUD'S WIFE AND SON HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY.

5. WE ARE CONTINUING TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH THE GOI ON THE BASIS OF KABUL REPORTS.
SULLIVAN

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